

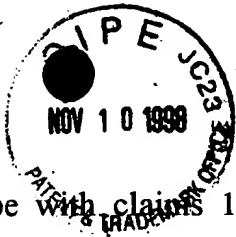
a second motor mounted on the brace,
two shafts supported by the brace and rotatable by the second motor,
an elongate, movable platen having a flat bottom surface,
bearings associated with the platen, where the platen is supported by the
two shafts and bearings, and where the rotation of the shafts in the bearings causes the
platen to move[s] in a translational orbit [when the two shafts are rotated by the second
motor, and]

B' amended
an abrasive associated with the platen to abrade the wood products, and
a conveyor supported by the frame and positioned beneath the platen's flat
bottom surface.

John DCB
15. (Amended) The sander of claim 14 further comprising two timing
pulleys, one on [the second shaft and one on the third shaft] each of the two shafts
supported by the brace and a timing belt driven by the second motor and extending
around the two timing pulleys so that when the second and third shafts are rotated by the
second motor, the shafts move in time.

REMARKS

too narrowly defined
The Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same
invention as that of claims 1-13 of prior U.S. Patent No. 5,702,287. Applicant traverses
this rejection. Pending claims 1-13 differ in that they do not require a sheet of sandpaper.
Rather, claims 1-13 simply require a platen structure carrying sandpaper. The sandpaper
in claims 1-13 may take forms other than a sheet, for example, the sandpaper may be a
roll or belt, which some may argue is not a sheet. Thus, claims 1-13 in this case are not



co-extensive in scope with claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 5,702,287, and applicant requests that the double-patenting rejection be withdrawn.


The Examiner rejected claims 4-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 2, 4-5 and 10-11 of prior U.S. Patent No. 5,443,414. That rejection is traversed. Amended claims 14-16 differ from the cited claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,443,414 in that a movable brace supported by a frame is "operatively connected" to a drive shaft, instead of being "linked to" a drive-shaft. This change is intended to address any argument that the phrase "linked to" requires a specific linkage. Additionally, claims 14-16 require an abrasive associated with a platen, and are not limited to a sheet of sandpaper secured over a platen's flat bottom surface. Thus, amended claims 14-16 are not co-extensive in scope with the cited claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,443,414, and applicant requests that the double-patenting rejection be withdrawn.

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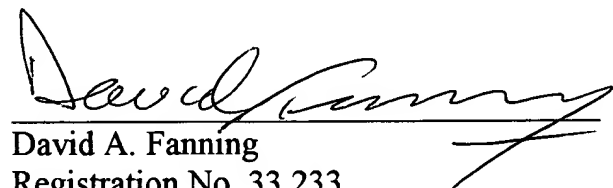
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 5, 1998.


David A. Fanning
Date of Signature: November 5, 1998

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